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News Release

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Donald W. Thompson, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Division, announce the sentencing of Roosevelt Simmons, age 42 of Surry, Virginia, by United States District Judge Richard L. Williams. Simmons was sentenced today to a term of 168 months for his part in a crack conspiracy that spanned Surry County, Smithfield and Isle of Wight. As part of his plea agreement, Simmons admitted that he distributed between 500 grams and 1.5 kilograms of crack cocaine during the course of the conspiracy. Simmons was charged along with 17 other defendants, whose involvement ranged from multi-ounce distributors to individuals who converted powder cocaine to crack or allowed their residences to be used to distribute the cocaine.

Simmons was prosecuted as part of the "Community Impact" initiative. The initiative was designed by United States Attorney Paul McNulty to direct federal resources to communities with the greatest need for federal intervention. Federal agencies work with the local authorities to target a particular drug organization and expeditiously secure a federal indictment. Once the targets are in federal custody, local law enforcement officers are in a better position to police their respective communities and maintain a status quo of public safety.

Mr. McNulty stated: "This case clearly demonstrates how effective our community impact initiative can be. We will continue to vigorously prosecute those who destroy the integrity of our communities."

This case was investigated by the FBI and the Pagan River Drug Task Force. The Task Force is comprised of law enforcement officers from the Smithfield Police Department, Surry County Sheriff's Office, Isle of Wight Sheriff's Office and the Virginia State Police. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Laura C. Marshall.